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**CARD FROM BISHOP SCANLAN.**

I feel it my duty to protect Catholics and the public generally from fraud and imposition by notifying them from time to time that no person bearing the name and garb of a priest or sister, or anyone else, is authorized or permitted to solicit or collect in this diocese for any purpose whatever connected with the Catholic Church without having from me permission in writing, bearing my seal and signature. Should anyone be found engaged in doing this unlawful work or collecting without such a document, he or she, as the case may be, should be regarded by all as a fraud and an imposter.

L. SCANLAN,
Bishop of Salt Lake.

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Robbery—the price of coal.

The hot air crop one would naturally expect to develop into a whirlwind.

A pensive maid might become ex-pensive as a wife, but then, again, she might not.

Sometimes a fellow reforms because he runs out of money, and sometimes he doesn't.

If prices of commodities continue to raise, it won't be long till we will all need a pension.

Laughing in an elbow-length sleeve certainly must lack half the pleasure afforded by one the full length.

The best way to stop the coffin trust in its plundering operations is for the people positively to refuse to die.

China produces 600,000 ounces of gold yearly, says a newspaper item. No wonder Japan wants to civilize China.

Bachelors and benedicts feel sorry for each other, and all women feel sorry for themselves, whatever their condition matrimonially.

We fear to attempt description of Utah's autumnal weather, lest the incredulous in other parts rise up and call us nature faker.

A Denver man has an airship that he says will go from Chicago to New York in three hours. The machine is still in Denver, however.

The festive oyster is again declared to be in season, but as a weather indicator the oyster is no more reliable than the weather bureau.

The grocers and butchers have a trust, all right, but they are very prompt to bust it if bills are not paid up soon after they send them around.

Being a dog has its drawbacks, too, for a man can lay aside his collar on a hot day, while the dog catcher is looking for the canine in negligee.

The apple crop of New England is reported to be immense and of splendid quality, so there are blessings left in some parts of our poor, expensive country.

Vice President Fairbanks passed through Salt Lake last week, but there was no noticeable decline in temperature, his enemies to the contrary notwithstanding.

Industry, honesty and sobriety are pretty good things to have in this world, but these virtues are only a part of christianity, and a Christian life comprehends them all.

Peary's polar expedition has been delayed for some reason unexplained. And the fact that the ship's name is Roosevelt makes the explanation of delay even more difficult.

It being nearly nine months since January 1, we can easily account for broken resolutions, and so can see no real reason for announcing that Vesuvius is smoking again.

The Episcopal bishop of Texas in dealing with the question of foreign mission, gave out the statement that the people of the United States make an annual outlay of $60,000,000 for chewing gum, entering a protest at the comparatively small contribution to the mission field. Sixty millions of dollars for chewing gum is a big sum to be spent thus uselessly, but if the people must chew something, certainly gum is much better than some other articles—the rag, for instance.

It is hardly to be expected that Utahns would take any active interest in polar expeditions, unless one of those returning reported finding a coal mine in the Arctic regions.

Salt Lake doesn't need a government statistician to find out that beefsteak, butter, eggs, coal and a number of other things cost more than they should, and not a great deal of research to back up the prediction that they will cost even more this winter.

Our grocery boy solemnly asserts that all the agitation against the butchers and grocers' trust was started by people whose credit at the stores had been impaired for some unknown reason, from which the only inference to be drawn is that all honest men have become grocers and butchers.

Miamisburg, a prosperous city of Southwestern Ohio, recently let a contract for 2,000 tons of coal at $2.15, delivered on the siding at the water and light plant. Last year the contract price was $2.10 a ton. The town is farther from its coal supply than is Salt Lake. Wages there run from $2 a day for common labor to $4 for skilled, but measured in coal, the people there seem to have the better of it, with all the boasted high wages of the west.

## OBEDIENCE TO LAW.

There seems to be a popular opinion that all the agitation against combinations in trade is for the purpose of breaking them up, bankrupting them and forcing them out of business. The recent imposition of a $29,000,000 fine against the Standard Oil company was hailed with delight by a very large number of people, and was viewed with alarm by others. Those delighted ones think they see the beginning of the end of trusts, and those alarmed ones are fearful that capital will eventually be debarred from active participation in the affairs of the country.

It does not seem to occur to people holding either of these views that all the prosecutions of trusts, so far at least, have been for violation of laws. The Standard Oil company was found guilty of violating the law forbidding a shipper to receive a rebate. Even in the face of the verdict, however, the company claims it was not really guilty, for it shipped over one railroad at the published rate of another. However, the verdict in the case was that the law was violated. The law is plain; no doubt the Standard Oil company understands its provisions now, even if it did not before the trial.

It is a bad system of laws which made possible the exploitation and development of such a gigantic corporation as the Standard Oil, or if the laws were all right, they were poorly administered. Granting the legality of its every other act, in this case the violation was proven, and the fine was imposed for violation of the law. The general belief, however, is that Standard Oil is an old offender against the law; that it built itself up through defiance of law, and that the long toleration of its lawlessness by the people explains its almost disdain of concealment of its illegal acts.

The authority of the law may not be flouted by any corporation or individual. It has been a long and up-hill pull to get laws on the statute books which would in a measure control the trusts of which Standard Oil is the most conspicuous. It has been charged so often that legislatures, congress and the judiciary have been bought up by the money power that people have come to believe it and look upon the moral degradation as a necessary evil in our commercial age. According to an old saw, "When things get to the worst they begin to mend." Law violation evidently has reached its worst, for we no longer hear of trust magnates consigning the public to perdition, and posing before the people at the same time as moral examplars.

The prosecution of trusts and monopolies is not based on the fact that they have more than they deserve, nor that they sell their products at an enormous profit. They simply violated the law and they had to answer to the people.

## GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP.

Advocates of government ownership point with pride to the postoffice department as an example of what may be done by the system which would make the federal government the custodian of all public utilities. Nobody questions that there is a certain amount of efficiency in the postal affairs of the nation, that the service is being extended by rural free delivery routes so that practically everybody in the country is a beneficiary, but to claim all this as a result of government ownership is a fallacy. It may be that all these things are accomplished in spite of governmental control.

It is not for the purpose of questioning the principle of public ownership, but to show the fallacy of the claims made by advocates of that principle that attention is directed to another institution which has belonged to the people since the foundation of the government—the inland waterways of the country. The rivers belong to the people, and they present a free right of way for the transportation of freight and passengers. The only expense attached to this transportation is the cost of boats, wharves, labor and keeping the channels in navigable condition.

Congress has appropriated vast sums of money for the improvement of rivers and harbors, and probably has got as much for the money as was expected, but the rivers lack much in affording facilities to relieve the railroad congestion reported from time to time to exist in cities situated on navigable streams. Railroad rights of way belong to private corporations, which expend millions of dollars to keep the road beds in condition to carry the traffic. With all the agitation against the railroads, it must be confessed that the service rendered is no more lamentably inefficient than that of the river systems.

Senator Warner recently made the assertion that for $20,000,000 the channel of the Missouri river between St. Louis and Kansas City could be deepened and made to have a freight carrying capacity many times greater than that of all the railroads between those two cities. If he is right, and his assertion is based on investigation and careful estimates, the permanent improvement of that stream seems an economic necessity. Indeed, the work should even now be completed, and the benefits derived by the people at the present time. In the past many times the cost of this improvement was appropriated by congress, in the form of land grants, to the railroads. The railroads being private enterprises and the water courses public property may afford the explanation why the latter have not received the attention which their importance deserves.

So in the consideration of public ownership of public utilities, the river improvements, with appropriations to meet the demands of congressmen seeking re-election rather than the accomplishment of the public good, may be pointed out as a horrible example. The theory is good, but the practical working out of the theory requires more than the mere demonstration of the idealist.

## AN ANCIENT HERITAGE.

A great many people seem to think that graft is something new and peculiar to the twentieth century alone. They assume that the "good old days" were in reality better days than the present ones. But we cannot acquiesce in this opinion. Graft is not new. The name is, perhaps, though we would not be sure about the modernity of even the name. Old Herodotus tells some pretty tall stories of the grafters in the Babylonian temple of Venus, and disclosures made by excavations on the site of ancient Babylon indicate that Herodotus spoke truly. And in Jerusalem, the seat of high ideals, to which place the people always returned after lapses from ancient faith, the grafters went so far as to profane the temple until they were rebuked and driven out.

And all through the history of the human race, the gentle grafter has been a factor in the social, political and business life of the people. Public toleration of years and centuries lies behind the recent disclosures of dishonesty among people who of right ought to be honest. Thirty pieces of silver was Judas' graft. It might as well have been thirty cents for all the good it did him. Judas was a very sly rascal, or thought he was. And the modern grafters fondly imagine that they can sell out and not get caught. They take the high moral ground that being caught constitutes their only crime, and then they take everything in sight, including a few bad chances.

The psychology of graft is a mystery. A few may be so lacking in conscience as not to be worried by the still small voice within, but it is likely that even those who successfully cover up their evil doings take small pleasure in the profits of their perfidy. And the fact that two or more persons are always involved in bribery cases and other grafting pursuits ought to deter a man even more than in cases of just plain stealing. It certainly must be an uncomfortable feeling public officials have when they know the other fellow might peach, and vice versa. And how can they respect each other?

They say there is honor among thieves, but thieves must have a distorted idea of honor, if that be true. And even thieves must feel that there is some dishonor in serving a term in the pen. But the jail sentence is not dishonorable; it is only the penalty for doing a dishonorable act. If a man is innocent of crime and is convicted unjustly, his incarceration in the jail is by no means a disgrace. Disgrace attaches to the cause which places the guilty one behind the bars. And now that the people have got the habit of putting grafters in jail, perhaps the ancient habit will lose even the semblance of respectability in these latter days.

## FASHIONS.

Humanity makes a good deal of trouble for itself, adds to its burdens, if indeed its burdens are not all of its own creation, and makes itself uncomfortable and miserable by inventions of style experts which are readily, nay eagerly, adopted by those who can afford them, aped by those who can't but do afford them, and mocked by those who can't and won't afford them, and who take comfort in the discomforts of those whose sartorial courage is limited only by what is au fait, or what a few years ago was fin de siecle. (That expression looks so good it's a pity it doesn't mean something these days.) Somewhere on this earth, far away from mountains and farms and irrigation ditches, where men and women live from one year's end to another without seeing a fashion journal; somewhere there is a center from which emanates periodically an announcement that fashions henceforth shall be changed. No longer is the male human form to be adorned with three-buttoned cutaways; no longer shall the shoes into whose shape we have squeezed our feet for the past year be the correct thing; no longer shall the baggy trousers which have bagged at the knees for these six months meet the sartorial requirements of fashion. And the wide expanse of shoulders which have made puny men look like prize ring champions for a season—these are to be tabooed or have another addition built to them, we have forgotten which, but it is all in the fashion journal with which we started our breakfast fire.

Every spring, every summer, every autumn, every winter, comes an announcement of a radical change in styles for men. The funny part of it all is that we never see two men dressed alike, excepting only those who are uniformed.

And as for women, if one saw another rigged up in a costume similar to her own—well, neither could forgive the other, and neither could be persuaded to like the dress any more, no matter how expensive, how beautiful, how becoming or how altogether lovely it might be.

Fashions do change, but why no one knows. Knickerbockers of velvet with brass buckles and pink ribbons at the knees (we are assured by historical dramas with authentic costumes to help out what the play lacks of other interest) were once as popular as is the more sedate raiment of the present time. And what miseries humanity suffered from bustles and crinoline! Certainly the change which relegated these monstrosities was a most welcome one.

Perhaps some day some style maker will discover something fit for man to wear at any time during his waking hours, something shaped to fit the body without any extra padding to falsify his wide expanse of chest, something of cheerful hue, not quite so heathenish as a blanket nor so inconvenient as a barrel—something resembling overalls and a jumper—and set a fashion for the fashionable which would include about eight hours of honest toil each day. Alas and alack, it is not fashionable to work, and we fear the nincompoop whose clothes furnish most of his ideas couldn't do much worth while if he tried.

## SCHOOL COMMENCEMENTS.

Teachers in Catholic schools do not approve of elaborate entertainments. The time spent in preparing for these exercises might be devoted to something more useful for the pupils. Again school exhibitions seldom show the public what the children have learned during the school term. It is customary to have these commencement exercises, but custom does not make them either useful or necessary.

Sister M. Florence, a teacher at Mt. St. Joseph Hamilton county, Ohio, in a letter to the Catholic School Journal, designates them as a nuisance, and whilst the sister's letter refers to parochial schools, it is equally applicable to academies and colleges, In the letter she says:

"I would like to see some one begin a crusade against school entertainments and elaborate commencement exercises. Surely pastors and parents cannot realize the sacrifice of time they entail. Teachers know that it takes from eight to ten weeks to train children to do creditably on the stage, and that during that time lessons are greatly interrupted and the minds of the children distracted from their lessons. Again, these entertainments come at a time when the children are already overworked. The spring term brings first communion, class examinations and preparation for the entertainment, all at the same time. Something must suffer. Of course, the object is to make one hundred and fifty dollars for the school, but could this not be made in one collection, or one supper, or lecture? I am sure this waste of valuable school time is the greatest drawback in our parochial schools."

When and where there is a valuable waste of time it is an injury to the child and its future welfare, and pecuniary gain cannot right a wrong. Time is valuable and the child's school time should be devoted to learning something practical for the future.

## MENTAL AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT.

Now that the school year has begun, parents and others in charge of children should give serious consideration to the question of the best development of their mental faculties. But this result is not determined alone by the amount of time spent in study; in fact, too much time so spent will retard rather than advance the mental development of a child. One essential feature which is too often overlooked is the physical development. It is an old saying that a sound body is necessary to a sound mind.

In order that the brain may be healthy and properly developed, it is necessary that the body have plenty of fresh air and exercise. This is such plain common sense that it would seem to be unnecessary to state it, and yet it is frequently overlooked on the part of those who have the bringing up of children.

The nations of the world illustrate this truism. The world is ruled by those nations whose men are best physically developed. This is not due to the power of brute force, but to the fact that the intellect is best developed in those who minds are physically s... ig.

Japan was always a weak subject nation until their people took up physical culture, and after fifteen years of such culture they proved the superiors of the large but lazy Russians. There is no nation in the world more highly developed mentality than the Hindus and yet, on account of their lack of physical activity their mentality has become erratic and they are a subject race today.

The question as to what kind of outdoor exercise is best depends upon circumstances. Any outdoor work is of benefit, but if circumstances permit it is much better to allow a portion of the time for sports or contests which are purely for pleasure. An investment in a baseball and bat for a boy will yield the largest returns of any which a parent can make. That is a sport which exercises healthfully every muscle of the body, without undue strain or danger. Every pastime, such as ball, football, swimming, skating and bicycling, are sure to produce excellent results in the way of mental as well as physical results of a child. Walking to and from school is a splendid exercise and should be encouraged even if the distance be several miles. It is only necessary to start a little earlier in the morning, and the student who does walk will feel much better all day than the one who rides in a stuffy street car.

Games and contests are a strong factor in the moral wellbeing of a child. The desire to excel will be such that everything will be done to keep in good condition, and a boy will soon find out that he cannot keep in good condition if he indulges in smoking, drinking or other bad habits.

The results of physical development are shown in a more striking manner in the college graduates of the present time than of those a generation ago. Formerly all the attention was given to developing the mind and the body was allowed to remain undeveloped. The result was that college graduates were notoriously inefficient and a diploma was regarded as a badge of incompetency in the practical affairs of life. For the past ten or fifteen years, however, the colleges have devoted much time to physical development, and the result is that the typical college graduate of today is in demand everywhere at high salaries to conduct the business enterprises.

## PARCELS POST.

Backed by the administration and bucked by the big express companies, Postmaster General Meyer will urge the establishment of a limited parcels post before the next congress. Nobody knows what the result will be. Failure, probably; but if so it will result only in more agitation and more education. Failure followed the work of other postmasters general. Postmaster Bissell wanted a parcels post, and before him Wanamaker and Vilas sought to inaugurate the system. Maybe it was suggested and urged by others before these.

The parcels post is in reality a system of sending express packages by mail at a special rate of postage. Other countries have adopted it with results so satisfactory that the United States seems just a little behind the times. According to a statement comparing English parcels post rates and American express rates, which seems authoritative, the transportation charges on a three-pound package from New York and London to Buenos Ayres are respectively $6.30 and 57 cents, a difference of $5.73 in favor of the British rate. Maybe this little matter of $5.73 saving in transportation charges on three pounds of goods accounts for the fact that Briton's maritime trade is the largest in the world and America's about the smallest. And it is probable American bottoms would be more numerous if transportation rates were more nearly equal. The need of a ship subsidy to encourage American ship builders might vanish, also, if the 57-cent rate superseded the $6.30 rate.

In domestic business the comparison is quite as discouraging, the difference between Germany's parcels post rates and America's express rates being more than 5,000 per cent. That 5,000 per cent helps to pay dividends on watered stock, but it doesn't help out the people when they want to ship Christmas packages or anything else.

The economical distribution from the producer to the consumer has received very little thought from the business interests of the country, except to get hold of the products in the transition and extort a profit, passing the goods through a half dozen middle men, wholesalers, jobbers and retailers, before the consumer is privileged to buy them. For instance, wool raised in Utah is shipped to the New England states, made into cloth, handled several times as cloth, sold finally to a clothes maker, handled several times between the maker and the Salt Lake merchant, so that when it finally lands on a man's back at $35 or $40 a suit, he is possessed of six or eight pounds of wool with about $10 worth of work on it and about $20 profit to some score of middlemen.

It is not believed that the parcels post will eliminate all this unnecessary profit taking, but it will be possible for big dealers and small retail merchants to order small lots of goods and have them laid down in their stores at reasonable rates. It is to be expected that opposition of the express companies will be organized and powerful. They will enlist in their aid many small storekeepers who fear the menace of mail order houses should transportation charges be materially reduced. Doubtless there are some grounds for this fear, but the small dealer whose buying judgment is such as to anticipate the wants of his trade has nothing to fear from any mail order house. Buying by mail is not so attractive to consumers as going into the store and seeing the goods before them.

Besides, the small merchant under a parcels post system would lose very little compared to the gain which everybody would win. Two hundred and fifty million dollars a year is the estimated saving which would accrue to the people, the consumers of goods, should the parcels post be inaugurated in the United States. That is about $3 for each inhabitant of the country. Of course there are millions of people who do not send or receive an express package in a year, and these consider it none of their business what the charges of transportation are. But these charges are added pro rata to the selling price of every article sold in a retail store, and the consumers pay the bill.

Postmaster General Meyer is not insistent on having large packages go by mail. Ten pounds as a weight limit would suit him, and he would accept five pounds if congress will allow only that much. What he wants is a beginning. When the start is made the people will keep it going if they find it an economical institution, and it will die a natural death from lack of patronage if it is not.